

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 03750 301319Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 INR-10 INRE-00 SSO-00
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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8586

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3750

STADIS////////

FOR NEA/ARN-HOWELL FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, OEXC, SY, US
SUBJ: SYRIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO THE US

REF: DAMASCUS 3741

1. I DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL INVITATION TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, MAHMOUD HADID, JUNE 29.

BEGIN TEXT:

ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND
AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, I HAVE
THE HONOR TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL
OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC FOR A DELEGATION OF THREE
COUNCIL MEMBERS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES NEXT WINTER FOR
A PERIOD OF THREE TO FOUR WEEKS.

WE HAVE EXCHANGED SOME PRELIMINARY IDEAS ON THE SCOPE
AND PRECISE TIMING OF SUCH A VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT OF
THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL FOREIGN AND ARAB AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AND PROPOSE THAT WE WORK WITH HIM AND WITH THE STAFF OF
THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM FOR THE VISIT.
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WE BELIEVE THIS PROPOSED VISIT WILL PROVIDE AN OPPOR-
TUNITY TO EXTEND THE DIALOGUE BEGUN BY THE VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES OF A DELEGATION FROM THE PREVIOUS PEOPLE'S
COUNCIL AND CONTINUED THROUGH THE RECIPROCAL VISIT TO
SYRIA OF DELEGATIONS FROM BOTH HOUSES OF THE UNITED
STATES CONGRESS LAST JANUARY. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT SUCH

A DIALOGUE IS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND LOOK FORWARD TO ITS
CONTINUATION.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY BEST PERSONAL REGARDS AND HIGHEST RESPECT.
END TEXT.

2. AS YOU CAN SEE WE HAVE SKIRTED THE ROLE OF THE CONGRESS.
PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS HERE ARE PLAYING THE VISIT AS BEING AT
THE EXPRESS INVITATION OF THE CONGRESS, BUT I BELIEVE THE
SARG IS WELL AWARE OF THE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS. I SEE NO
REAL HARM IF THE SYRIANS WANT TO PLAY THE INVITATION THIS
WAY FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION. IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR
THE SYRIANS, HOWEVER, TO HAVE SOME KIND OF ACTIVITY ON
THE HILL, PERHAPS A LUNCHEON MEETING, SO THAT THEY CAN
JUSTIFY THEIR OWN PROPAGANDA. I TRUST IT WILL NOT CAUSE
UNSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS IF WE CONTINUE TO PUBLICLY PLAY
DOWN AND FUZZ OVER JUST WHO IS INVITING WHOM.
PELLETREAU

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTel NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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